DEPUTY PRESIDENT : There is a request made to me that a new member may be sworn in. This certainly is not the time for that. The rules are different ; but considering the statement made by the President this morning that time will be available to this House for the discussion of the Report and considering also the fact that the Government is interested in moving all supplementary demands before this House and also to make it possible for the House to do the maximum amount of work, as a special case, I am prepared to allow Mr. C. O. Madhavan to be sworn in—

NEW MEMBER SWORN IN.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan, Excise Commissioner, took the oath and signed the Rolls.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, a point of order. Is the member in order in swearing before the other member resigns?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Regarding Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's point, I delayed giving a ruling because swearing is a very solemn act. Now that it is finished I am prepared to say that I find only nine members on the official side without Mr. Madhavan. Mr. Madhavan is the tenth member.

I would now call upon Mr. Truscott to make his motion.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (*contd*)— PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,17,450 for—

(1) the purchase of a dredger for the Alleppey Port	...	Rs. 1,10,000
(2) the appointment of a special staff for the preparation of a priority list of roads	...	Rs. 7,000
(3) the appointment of an additional draftsman in the Chief Engineer's Office	...	Rs. 450

Sir, it is essential that we should keep the Port of Alleppey open ; and to do that we want to have a dredger. During the last two years we spent nearly half a lakh of rupees on hand-dredging. Now it has come to that hand-dredging cannot be done ; and so in consultation with the Principal Port Officer it was decided on a type of dredger to be purchased ; and as the question is very urgent I have brought the supplementary demand for the approval of the House. It is well known that the Alleppey Port is what has been called a small gold mine to Travancore. Once the traders find that the facilities at that Port are not what they require, they will go elsewhere and then they would not come back again, however well preserved the Port might then be.

Sir, shall I speak on the various items separately or shall I speak on the three items together ?

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